

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently amended) Input multiplexer (IMUX) for splitting a broad frequency band into a series of narrower frequency channels ~~by means~~ comprising of a bandpass filter per frequency channel, each filter having an input and an output, ~~characterized in that~~ _____
_____ high circuit order bandpass filters with a circuit order of more than 6 have zero positions in the transmission function on the imaginary frequency axis in the vicinity of the passband for improving the flank steepness and a low variation in the group running time within the pass band, achieved by an external running time equalizer or further zero positions in the transmission function with a finite real part or a combination hereof, with each of these inputs coupled to a low loss bus bar (†), which ~~consists of~~ comprises conducting pieces of optimized length.

2. (Currently amended) The input multiplexer of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bus bar (†) connects ~~band-pass~~ the bandpass filters non-contiguously.

3. (Currently amended) The input multiplexer of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the busbar (†) connects the bandpass filters contiguously.

4. (Currently amended) The input multiplexer of one of ~~the preceding~~ ~~claims, characterized in that~~ claims 1-3, wherein the bandpass filter and the busbar (†) are constructed in the waveguide technique, the coaxial technique, the dielectric technique and/or the planar technique.

5. (Currently amended) The input multiplexer of one of ~~the preceding~~ ~~claims, characterized in at~~ claims 1-3, wherein the geometry of the low loss busbar (†) is ~~comblne~~ combine or herringbone.

6. (Currently amended) The input multiplexer of one of ~~the preceding~~ ~~claims, characterized and that~~ claims 1-3, wherein the bandpass filters ~~consist of~~ comprises resonators in the single mode, dual mode, triple mode and/or in the quadruple mode.

7. (Currently amended) The input multiplexer of one of ~~the preceding~~ ~~claims, characterized in that~~ claims 1-3, wherein the filters, with respect to their center frequency, are connected in any sequence with the busbar (†).

8. (Currently amended) The input multiplexer of one ~~the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of claims 1-3, further comprising devices for equalizing the bandpass filters and/or the busbar ~~are present.~~

9. (Currently amended) The multiplex of one the ~~preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of claims 1-3, wherein the individual multiplexes are connected over hybrid couplers and/or power splitters.

10. (Currently amended) The multiplexer of one of ~~the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claims 1-3, wherein the overall arrangement of the multiplexer covers all channels of an IMUX.

11. (Currently amended) The multiplex of one of ~~the preceding claims, characterized and that~~ claims 1-3, wherein the filter functions are symmetrical or asymmetrical.